

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1 1. (currently amended) A method using a ring to dispense sheet material from a stack of sheet
2 material comprising the steps of:

3 placing said ring on top of said stack of sheet material so that it is supported thereon with its
4 weight downwardly compressing said stack of sheet material with a constant compressive force
5 provided by action of gravity; and

6 drawing a sheet of sheet material from the top of said stack of sheet material upwardly
7 through said ring to dispense it from said stack of sheet material;

8 wherein said stack of sheet material is an interleaved stack of tissue sheet material, wherein
9 drawing a tissue sheet from the top of said stack of interleaved tissue sheet material during said sheet
10 drawing step to dispense it brings the next-to-top tissue sheet of said stack of interleaved tissue sheet
11 material through said ring in ready position to be dispensed, and wherein said ring has an inside
12 diameter of about three (3) inches, is made of steel, and weighs between three (3) and eleven (11)
13 ounces.

Claims 2-3 (cancelled)

1 4. (currently amended) A tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack
2 of tissues, comprising:

3 a free-standing stack of tissues;

4 a free-standing tissue dispensing member adapted to seat upon said free-standing stack of
5 tissues having a first, open portion adapted to allow the tissue on the top of said free-standing stack
6 of tissues to be pulled through said first, open portion to dispense it from off of said free-standing
7 stack and having a second, weighted portion cooperative with said first, open portion adapted to so
8 compress the tissues of said free-standing stack of tissues upon which it is seated as to remain seated
9 thereon when the top tissue is pulled through said first, open portion to dispense it without tearing
10 the tissue being dispensed;

11 wherein said first open portion of said free-standing tissue dispensing member is an
12 unbounded open portion, and wherein said unbounded open portion is U-shaped.

1 5. (original) The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues
2 of claim 4, wherein said stack of tissues is a stack of interleaved tissues.

1 6. (original) The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues
2 of claim 5, wherein said second, weighted portion cooperative with said first, open portion of said
3 free-standing tissue dispensing member adapted to so compress the tissues of said stack of tissues

1 upon which it is seated as to remain seated thereon when a top tissue is pulled through said first,
2 open portion to dispense it without tearing the tissue being dispensed is further adapted to prevent
3 tearing of the next-to-top tissue of the stack of interleaved tissues when a top tissue is pulled through
4 said first, open portion to dispense it and the next-to-top tissue is thereby drawn into the first,
5 apertured portion in ready position to be dispensed.

Claims 7-17 (cancelled)

1 18. (new) A tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues,
2 comprising:

3 a free-standing stack of tissues;

4 a free-standing tissue dispensing member adapted to seat upon said free-standing stack of
5 tissues having a first, open portion adapted to allow the tissue on the top of said free-standing stack
6 of tissues to be pulled through said first, open portion to dispense it from off of said free-standing
7 stack and having a second, weighted portion cooperative with said first, open portion adapted to so
8 compress the tissues of said free-standing stack of tissues upon which it is seated as to remain seated
9 thereon when the top tissue is pulled through said first, open portion to dispense it without tearing
10 the tissue being dispensed;

11 wherein said second, weighted portion of said free-standing tissue dispensing member is
12 integrally formed, and wherein said second, weighted portion of said integrally formed free-standing
13 tissue dispensing member is a ring.